

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – January 2008

From the Chair

At its meeting on January 15, 2008, the State Board of Education addressed the following topics:

Board's Desired State Public Engagement

Process: Legislators - Board members met during the morning of Tuesday, January 15th, with approximately 15 legislators to continue its public engagement process regarding the future of education in Vermont. This discussion follows the October release of *The Future of Education in Vermont*, a ***transformation document**, adopted in October 2007 by the State Board of Education. Following remarks by SBE Chair Tom James, those present viewed YouTube's "Did You Know" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMcfrLYDm2U>) and then engaged in discussion regarding the transformation document.

*The transformation document will serve as the means for conversation with constituent groups on the topic. Additional conversations with a broad range of constituent groups will be scheduled at subsequent Board meetings. In addition, plans are underway for the Commissioner to hold regional conversations with students and principals. To view the transformation document, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftdoc/board/future_of_education/future_of_education.pdf.

Summaries from October, November and December discussions can be seen at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

High Schools for the 21st Century

The Board previewed current work being undertaken by the Secondary Transformation Team, with respect to how the work is aligned with the Board's collective thinking and emerging vision. The topic emerged from the State Board's current discussions regarding the transformation of education in Vermont. Efforts to address secondary transformation began in 1999 with Vermont's "High Schools on the Move" (HSOM) document. This current document is intended to guide the initial work of

the newly created team as the Board, Commissioner and Department staff continue conversations with constituents about the transformation of education. To view the Secondary Transformation Team's guiding document, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftdoc/board/packet_archives/packet_08_0115/item_K.pdf.

In a related item, Steve Perkins, Cathy Mander-Adams and Jen Helm from Winooski High School shared the district's approach to meeting the needs of all of their students. The school has 234 students, 22 percent of whom are ESL (English as a second language). It is a diverse school with multiple needs, primarily language and socioeconomic in nature. Their work is focused on five strategic areas:

- expect all students to learn through internships, online programming, individual plans, etc.;
- Create an environment where all work together and graduate with a complete package;
- Foster a warm and welcoming environment for all students;
- Encourage staff to continue professional development;
- Increase the utilization of technology to bring students into the 21st Century.

The Board is very interested in Winooski's approach, noting that it has many parallels to the Board's transformation discussions.

Bus Idling Rules – At its September 18th meeting, the Board voted to initiate the rulemaking process for proposed bus idling rules, in response to the passage of S.13, the first Vermont bill enacted to specifically prohibit school bus idling on school grounds. To view the current version of the proposed rules, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftdoc/board/packet_archives/packet_08_0115/item_M.pdf. NOTE: The rules are scheduled to take effect during the 2007-08 school year. It is anticipated that the State Board will vote on the final proposed rules at its February 19, 2008 meeting.

FY 2009 SBE Budget Recommendation -

The State Board voted to adopt its FY 2009 budget recommendation. This is the annual budget submission and this year is set at \$1,460,105,654, an increase of 57,940,689, \$54.2 million of which is due to the education fund which finances Vermont's public education system. The main drivers for the education fund increase come from estimates that education spending of school budgets will grow 4.6% in FY 09 and special education aid will grow under the state formula by 6.7%. To view the FY 09 budget information, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/packet_08_0115/item_J.pdf.

From the Board

Tom James shared that he had spoken with Dawn Francis, mother of former student Board member Matt Francis and learned that Matt did not go to Maryland as planned, but instead worked to earn \$5,000 and participated in a program called "Travel to Teach" - where he taught English to young people and monks in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. He is now back and applying to Middlebury College.

From the Commissioner

Governance Report Update – Section 19 of Act 82 of 2007 directed the commissioner to submit a report, by December 1, 2007, to the legislature describing input received from the department's spring 2006 public engagement process on governance. The report included recommendations for statutory changes related to the governance of Vermont's education system. Macro International will be conducting a statewide poll in February 2008 that will include six to eight governance questions. Those questions will be constructed by the Snelling Center. To view the Act 82 report and its recommendations, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/legislative_reports.html#act_82_sec_19.

From the Department

2007-2008 Educator Census – The 2007-2008 Educator Census application has been mailed to supervisory unions and regional technical center directors. The due date for this data collection is **Monday, March 3, 2008**. If you did not receive the application, contact Beth-Ann Willey at (802) 828-3777, bethann.willey@state.vt.us. For data

reporting questions, contact Lucinda Morabito at (802) 828-1455, lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us.

Upcoming Educator Census Trainings -The Educator Quality Division will be providing two training sessions **on February 11, 2008 and February 14, 2008** on completing the 2007-2008 Educator Census. Both sessions will be provided via the Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Completing the Educator Census accurately is essential since HQT statistics (including the percentage of core academic subject classes not taught by highly qualified teachers) are compiled for the local education agency (LEA) based on the information provided. LEAs are required to publicly report these statistics annually. In addition, HQT statistics are included in required federal reporting by the state. Reporting errors can result in the calculation of incorrect percentages of classes being taught by teachers who are not HQT for their assignment(s). Especially in small schools, even minor errors in Census reporting can result in big changes in the reported HQT percentages. To see the Educator Census Data Collection Quick Reference, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/dept/calendar/ed_census_020708.pdf. Participants need to **RSVP** to lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us so that electronic hookups can be arranged.

NECAP Reporting Workshops – The Department of Education and Measured Progress will be conducting seven NECAP Reporting Workshops across the state during the week of **February 11 to 15, 2008**. See http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_assessment/necap/necap_workshops_0208.pdf for registration and other information regarding these workshops. Two different types of workshops will be offered. Participants may choose to attend one or both of the following:

Basic Interpretation Workshops: Primarily for high school educators who will be working with the grade 11 results reports and for those who are new to NECAP results reporting at any grade levels.

Advanced Interpretation Workshops: Designed for educators who have attended a NECAP reporting workshop before and are familiar with the different NECAP results reports. The focus will be on matching NECAP Reports to some of the key questions that are of interest to educators and community members.

Upcoming Events

For information on upcoming Department-sponsored events, see

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>

*

*

*

For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>

To view the State Board of Education's Monthly Reports:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports

